OLD PRINTS of CUBA

A SELECTION OF ODD PICTURES OF THE COLONIAL DAYS FROM THE MASSAGUER COLLECTION

PUBLISHED BY

A. M. GONZALEZ & BRO.

EL ARTE. GALERIAS DE ARTE

GALIANO 118 SAN RAFAEL 31

To Mr. G. W. Mac Kinnie.
Very cordially
C. W. Massaguer
1931

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PLATE I



COLUMBUS DISCOVERS AMERICA
Published in "Revista de la Habana", 1840.

PLATE II

OLD PRINTS

JUST A WORD OR TWO

CUBA, rich as she is in beauty, profligate as she is in wealth of nature, with the tapestry of her history embroidered in bright threads of blood and conquest, when she looks back for relics of early art, finds singularly little, other than some magnificent specimens of Spanish architecture. The Siboneys, orginal Cubans, were a primitive folk, a poor and a peaceful clan, now extinct through Spanish conquest. They lived in huts along the margin of the waters, and if they thought of art, it was in an inarticulated way which left nothing to posterity.

And on the other hand the Spanish conquistadores, although they filled their coffers with gold, had no mind to waste that wealth in establishing an artistic tradition in Cuba. Other than constructing some beautiful and massive buildings so that they might be esthetically comfortable during the years of their reign over the island, they preferred to spend their gold in Spain.

So it is with not a little pride that we brush the cobwebs off our shoulders—the aged archives get musty, and there has been much delving and digging into the past—that we offer this album of old Cuban prints, a part of the justly famous collection owned by Conrado W. Massaguer. The morgues of old publications have been searched for printed relics of ancient mementoes. The archives of Cuba have been turned upside down in search for specimens of her comparatively meager pictorial art.

As little as there is of the art which is distinctively identified with the early days of Cuba, the island republic is nevertheless famous for numerous collections of old prints and engravings. Among these are the Tejedor collection, now in Paris; the collection of the Marquis of Pinar del Río; those of M. Brandiere, of Narciso Maciá Jr., of Doctor Sánchez Roig, of Doctor Roig de Leuchsenring; and the collection of Conrado W. Massaguer is widely known.

It is from this collection that selections have been made for this album which is being published for the purpose of offering the American visitor an example of Cuban art. No mention is being made of the Spanish influence considering the fact that the majority of the Cuban collections date back to Colonial Cuba, under Spanish rule.

This album is the first of a series, in which prints from famous American, Cuban, German, Italian, English and French collections will be reproduced. In the ensuing editions other famous Cuban collections will be published and other prints of the Massaguer collection, not in this issue, will be included.



O'REILLY STREET AND STO. DOMINGO CONVENT

Drawn by Ros. Weiss. Lithographed by Aragón. From Andueza's Isla de Cuba 1841.

PLATE III



THE MORRO CASTLE AND LIGHT HOUSE
Drawn by F. Costa. Engraved by R. S. E.

PLATE IV



VIEW OF HAVANA HARBOR
From Gleason's Pictorial Drawing Room Companion, N. Y., 1853.

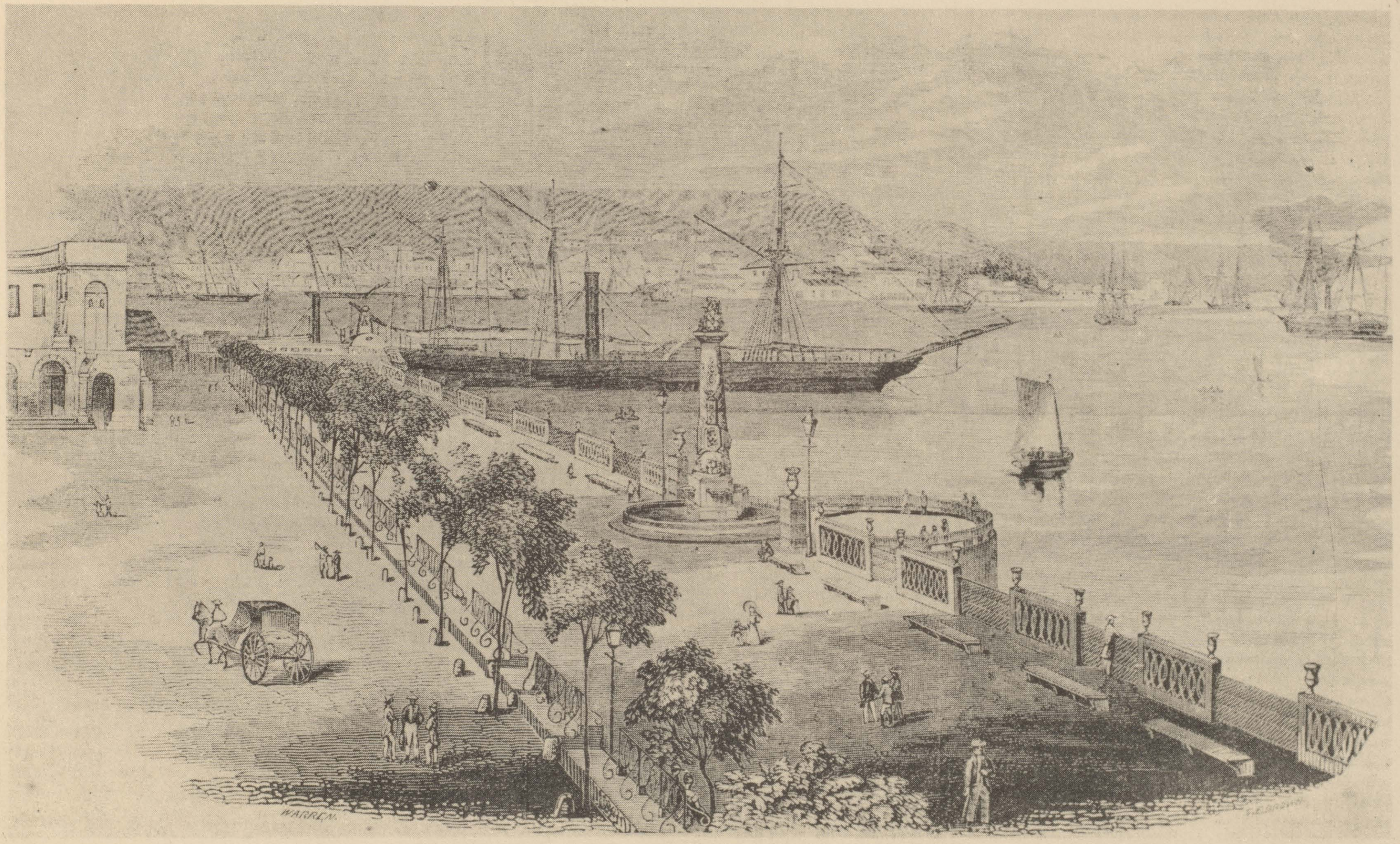


SAN FRANCISCO WHARF

Drawn by Ros. Weiss. Lithographed by Aragón From Andueza's Isla de Cuba

1841

PLATE VI



ALAMEDA DE PAULA ON THE BAY
Drawn by Warren. Lithographed by S. E. Brown. From Gleason's Pictorial Drawing Room Companion, N. Y., 1853.

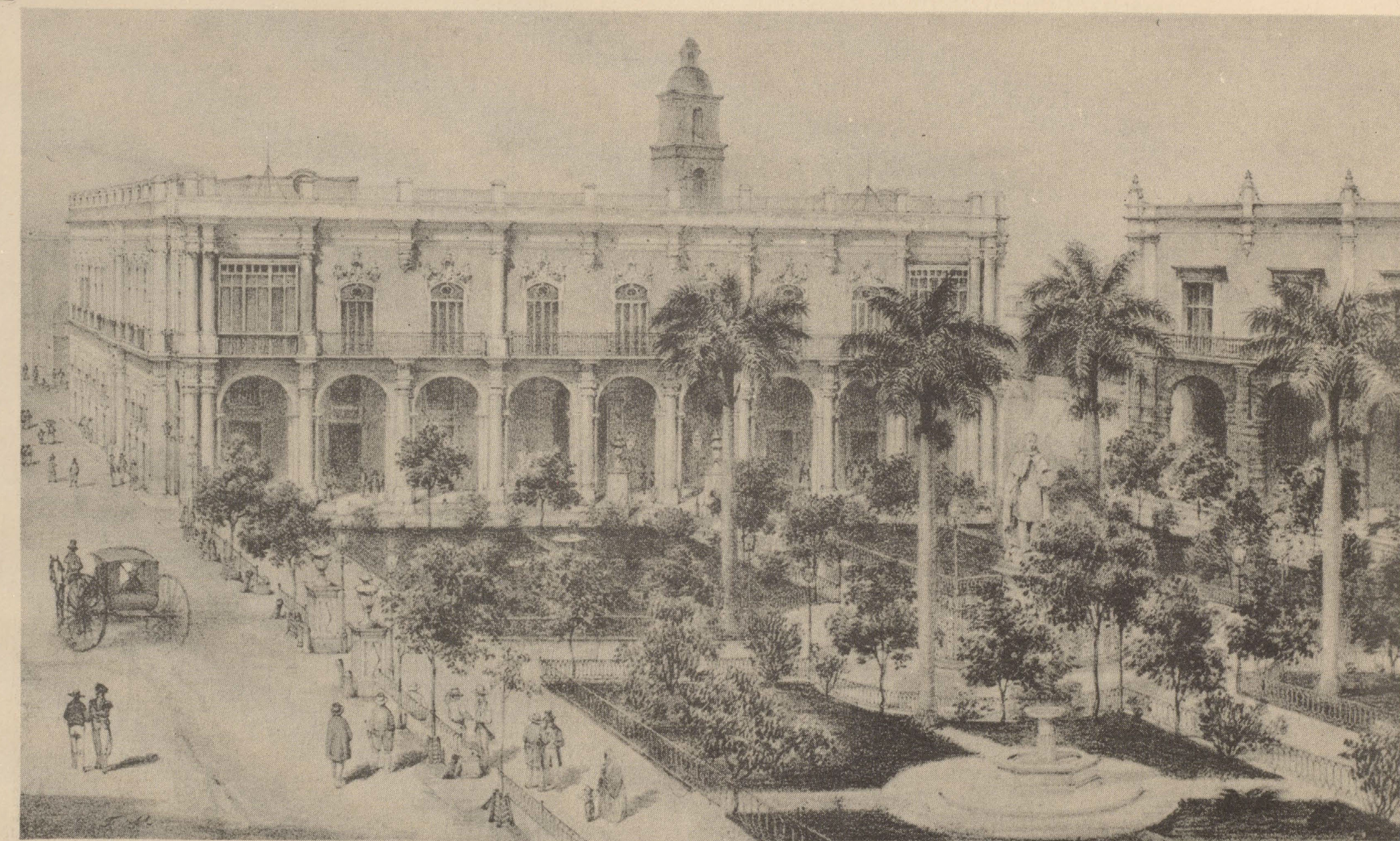


THE CATHEDRAL SQUARE
From "Around the World", edited by W. F. Ainsworth, N. Y.

PLATE VIII

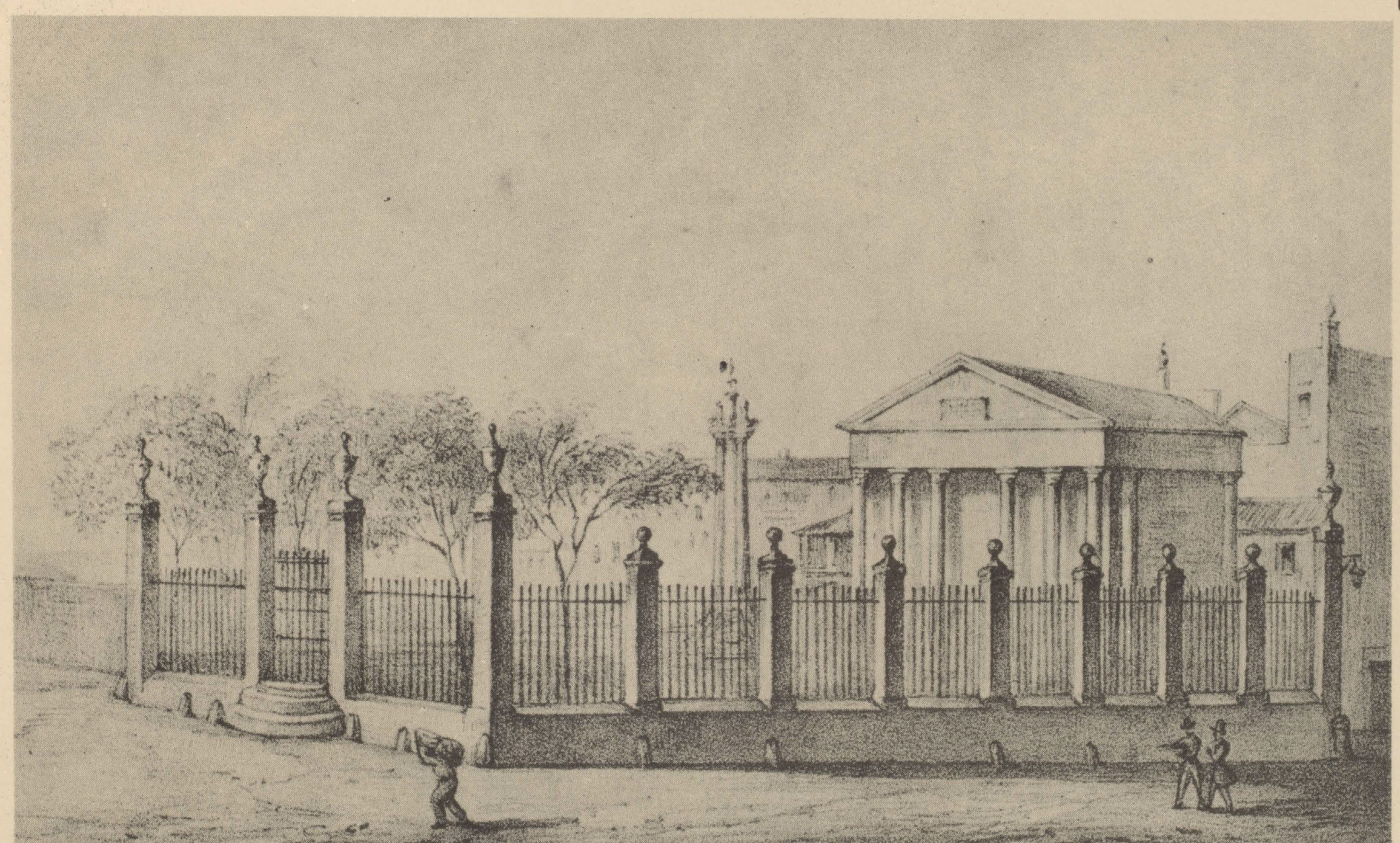


INTERIOR OF CATHEDRAL
Drawn by F. Costa. Lithographed by R. S. E., Havana, Cuba.



PLAZA DE ARMAS AND GOVERNOR'S PALACE (NOW CITY HALL)
Drawing by Mialhe. Published by L. Marquier, & C°, Havana, Cuba.

PLATE X

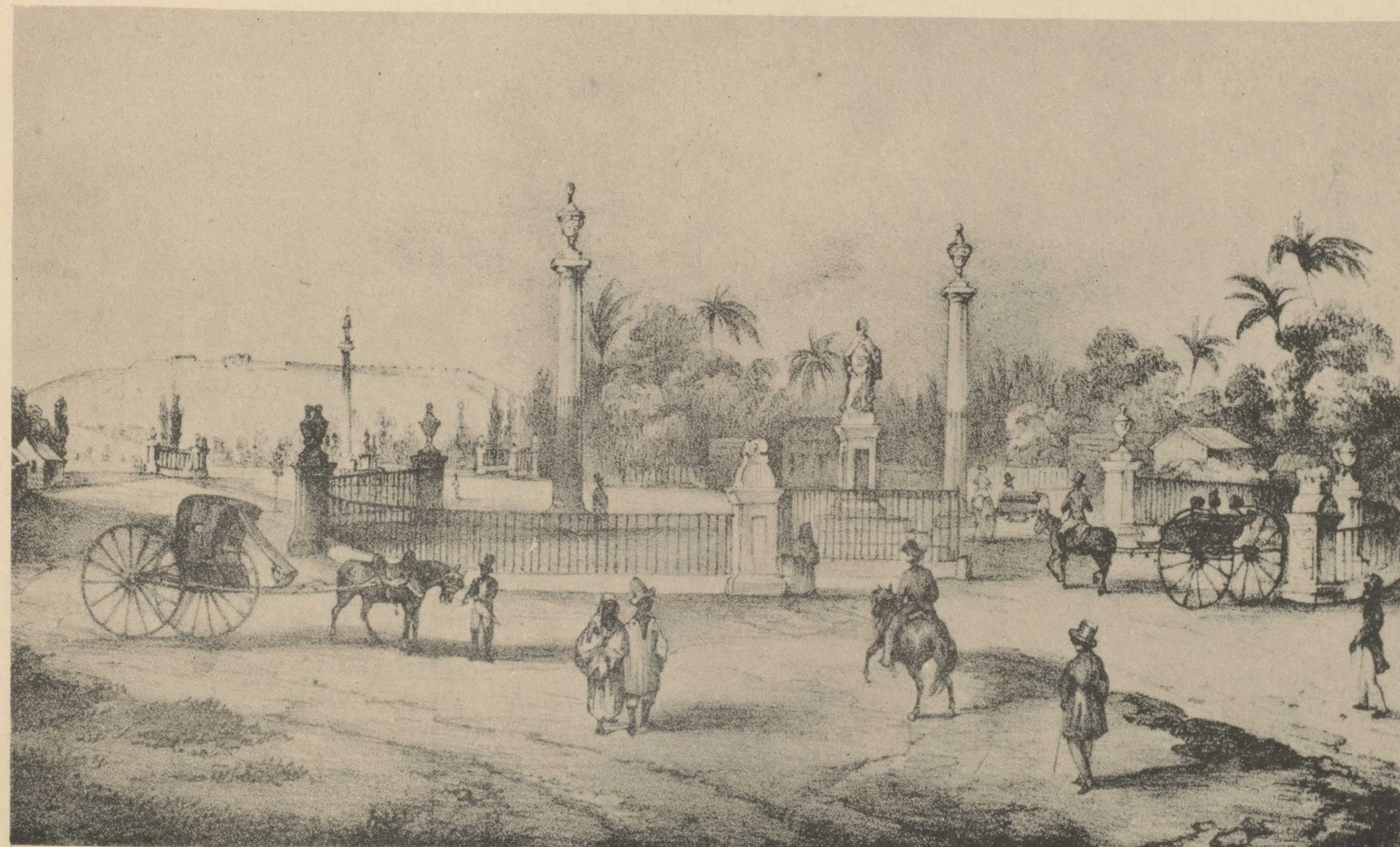


THE TEMPLETE (AT PLAZA DE ARMAS)
Drawn by Ros. Weiss. Lithographed by L. Aragón. From Andueza's, Isla de Cuba, Havana 1841.

PLATE XI



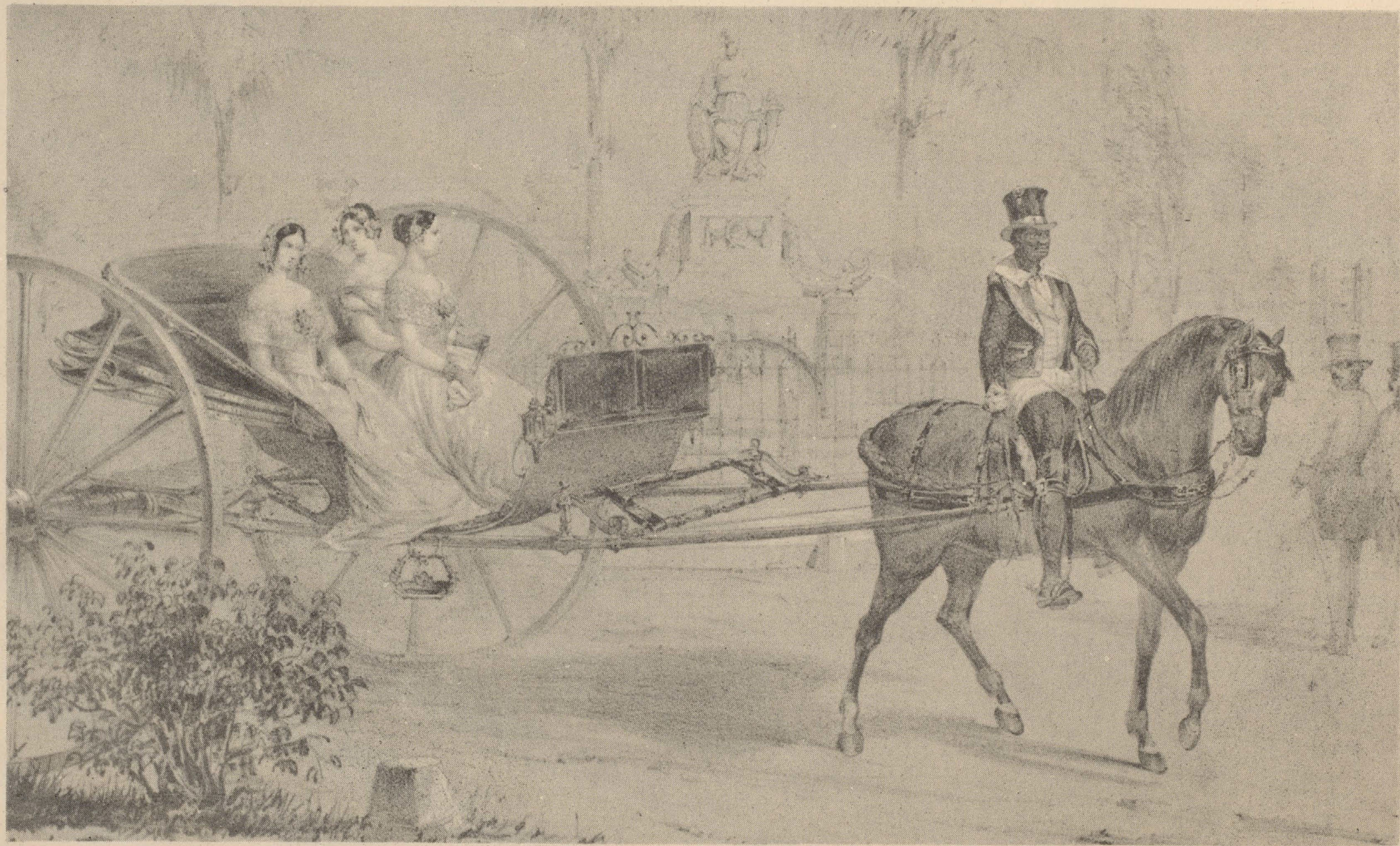
THE CAMPO DE MARTE (PARADE GROUND)
From Harper's Weekly of N. Y., 1869.



PASEO TACON

Drawing by Ros. Weiss. Lithographed by Aragón. From Andueza's Isla de Cuba, Havana, 1841.

PLATE XIII



LA INDIA FOUNTAIN AND THE QUITRIN COACH
Drawing by Mialhe. Lithographed by Marquier & C°, Havana.

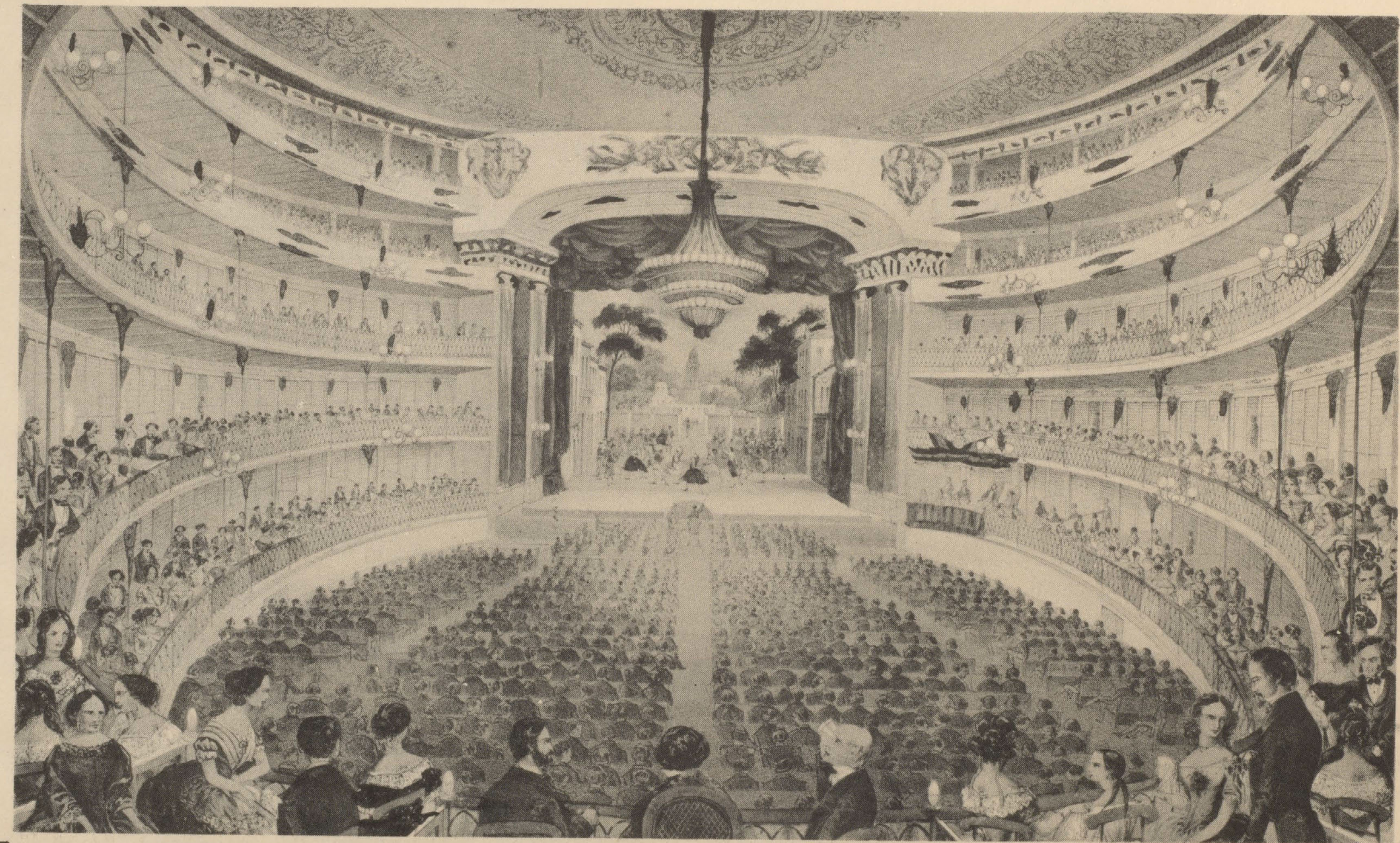
PLATE XIV



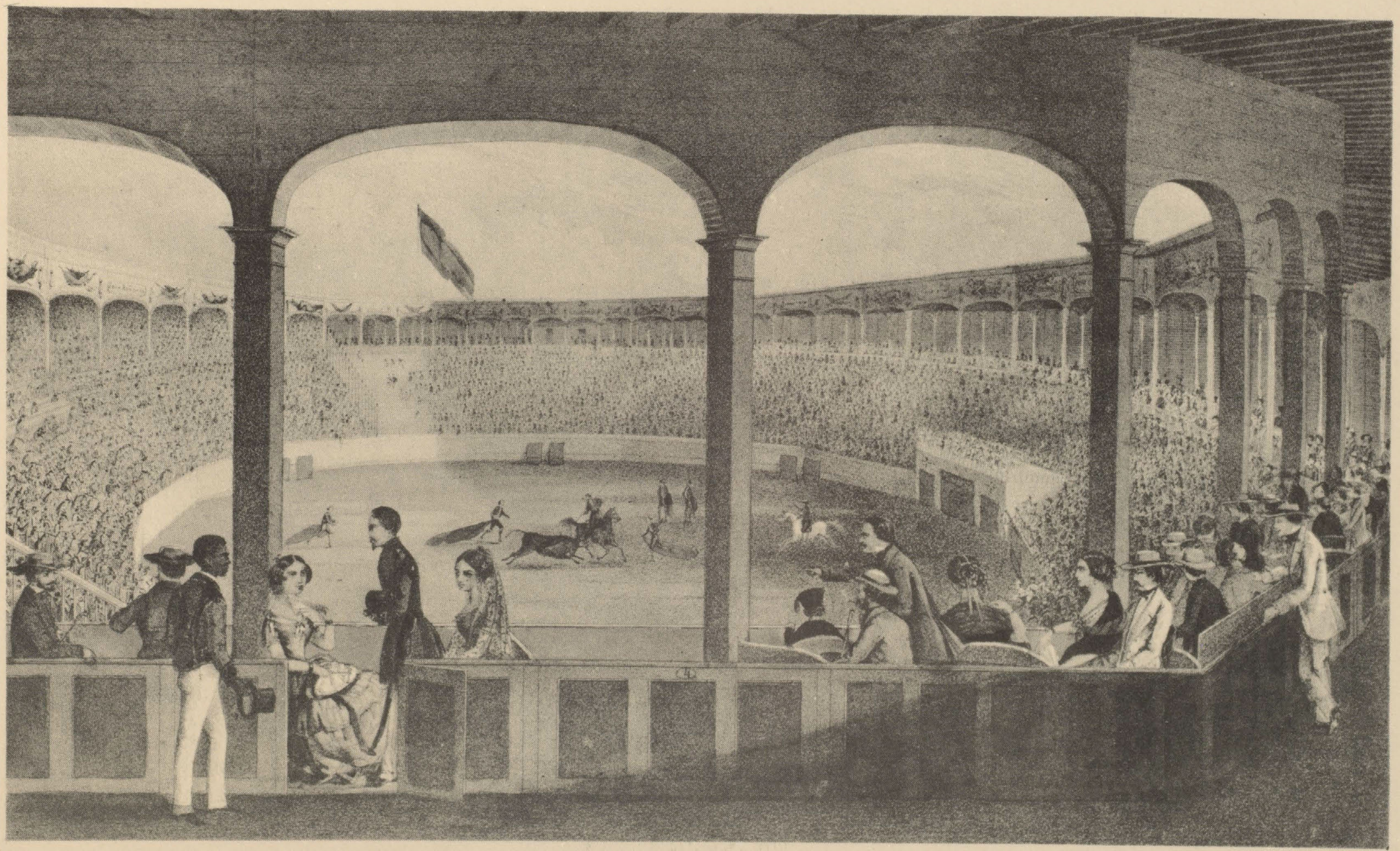
THE TACON THEATER

Drawn by Ros. Weiss. Lithographed by L. Aragón. From Andueza's Isla de Cuba, Havana 1841.

PLATE XV



GALA NIGHT AT TACON THEATER
Drawn by Ed. Laplante. Lithographed by S. Martín. Edited by L. Marquier & Laplante, Havana.



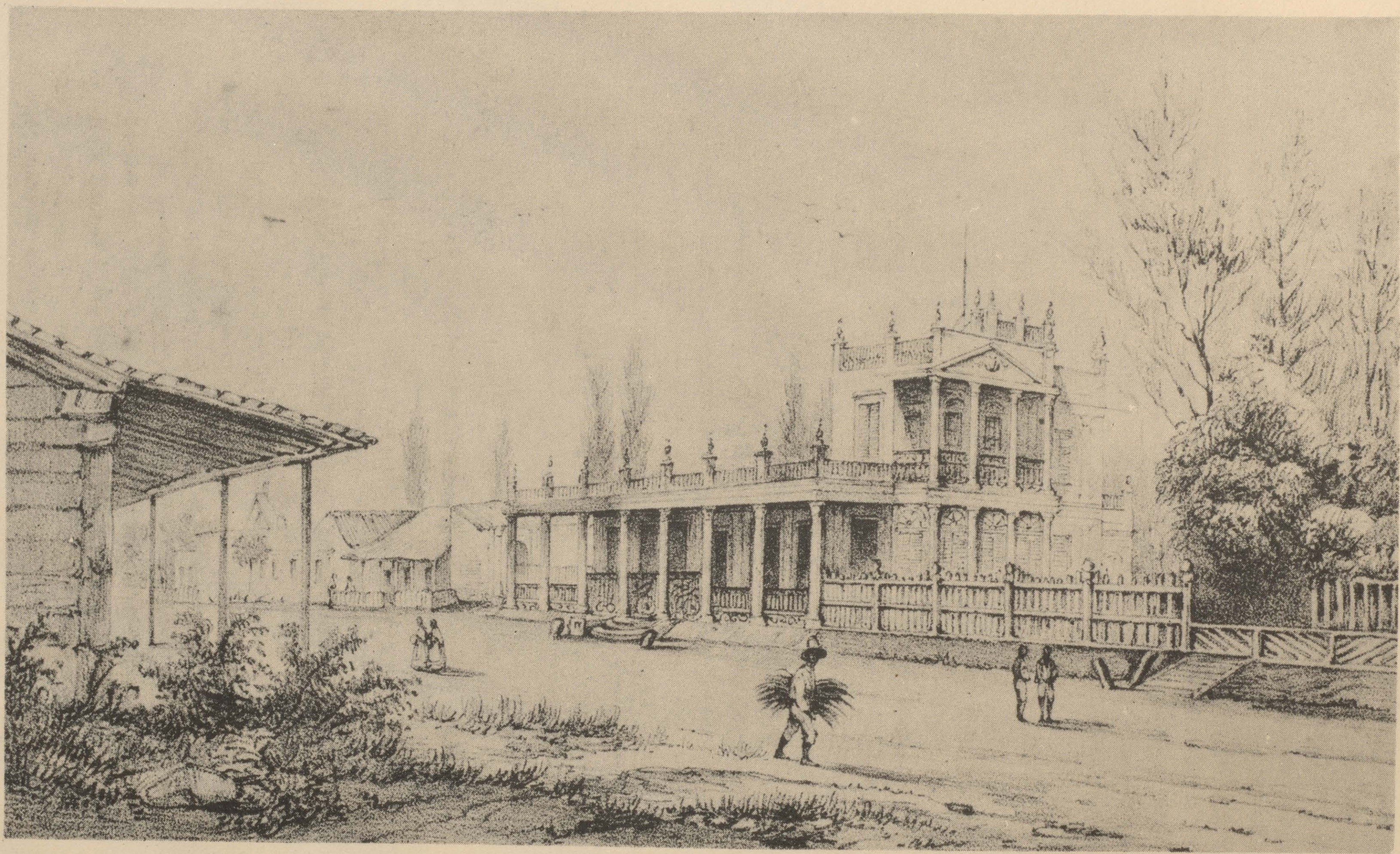
THE BULL RING
Drawn by Ed. Laplante. Lithographed by S. Martín. Edited by L. Marquier & Laplante, Havana.



CHURCH AND CONVENT OF BELEN
Drawn by Ros. Weiss. Lithographed by Aragón. From Andueza's Isla de Cuba, Havana, 1841.



HARBOR OF SANTIAGO DE CUBA
From Gleason's Pictorial Drawing Room Companion, N. Y., 1853.



A HAVANA RESIDENCE
Drawn by Ros. Weiss. Lithographed by Aragón. From Andueza's Isla de Cuba, Havana, 1841.



THE CRISTO CHURCH

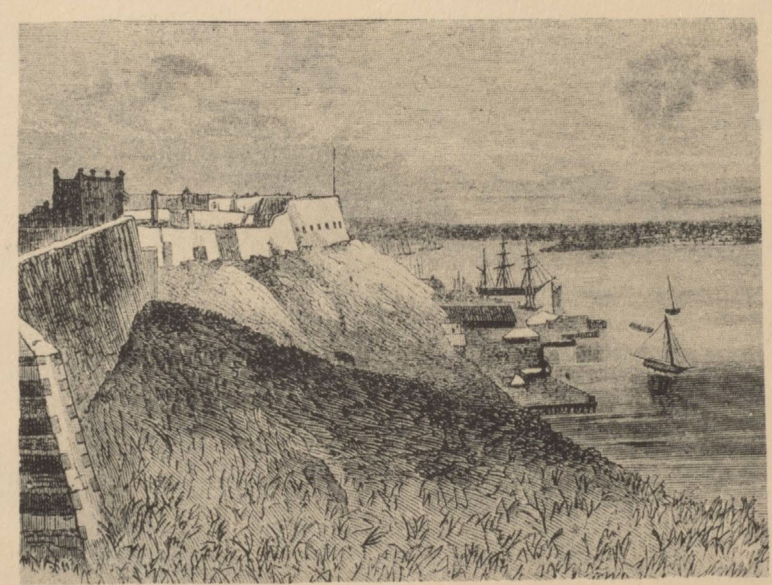
From Gleason's Pictorial Drawing Room Companion, N. Y., 1853.



PUENTES GRANDES BOROUGH
Drawn by Ros. Weiss. Lithographed by Aragón. From Andueza's Isla de Cuba, Havana, 1841.



A BRIDGE IN MATANZAS
Drawn by Ros. Weiss. Lithographed by Aragón. From Andueza's Isla de Cuba, Havana, 1841.



CABAÑAS FORTRESS

ENGRAVED AND PRINTED BY
"SINDICATO DE ARTES GRAFICAS
DE LA HABANA".

GALERIAS
DE ARTE
31 SAN RAFAEL ST.
HAVANA, CUBA